

1/1 Cavalry

preparing to roll out in Korea during
Foal Eagle '05

1st Armored Division



In Action Series

IRONSIDE MAGAZINE



1st Armored Division

JUNE - JULY 2005

Photo: Staff Sergeant Christopher Bennis

America's Tank Division



IRONSIDE

June - July 2005



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IRONSIDE

Magazine

Published in the interest of the Soldiers of 1st Armored Division

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Questions or comments should be direct to:

1st Armored Division
Public Affairs Office
Unit 24309
APO AE 09096

Telephone: DSN (314) 337-4861 civilian 011-49-0611-705-4861
E-mail: gregory.f.withrow@1ad.army.mil

Ironsides Staff

1st Armored Division Commander
Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael Indovina

Public Affairs NCOIC
Master Sgt. David Melancon

Ironsides Editor/ Graphics-layout-Design
Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

Assistant Editor
Pfc. Jennifer M. McFadden

Staff Writers
Pfc. Tanya C. Polk
Spc. Scott Pittillo
Sgt. Sam Smith

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COVER PHOTO

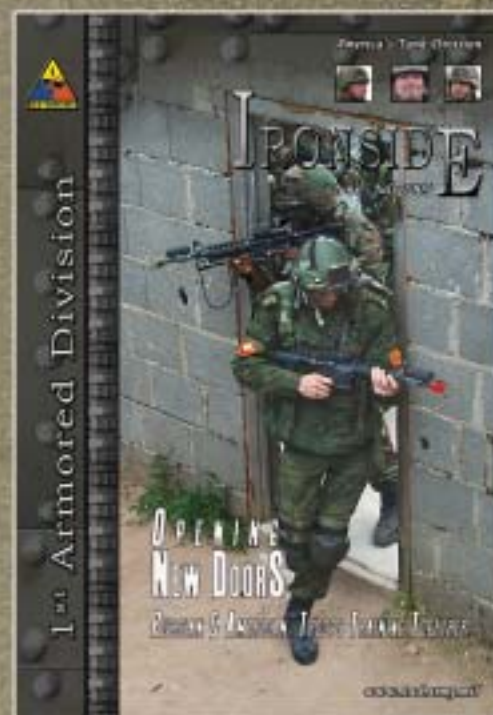


Photo by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

Sgt. Robert Castillo and a Russian cadet storm through a doorway in Grafewoehr Training Area's MOUT site during Torgau '05.

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Dear Iron Soldiers and Families,

This is my last contribution to “Old Ironsides Magazine.” As I prepare to “leave the net” I want to thank you for your service and encourage you to continue to build on your great reputation as “Iron Soldiers.” I have never been prouder to serve my country than with you in these past two years.

As you know, the Division just completed an extensive change of leadership among both Commanders and Command Sergeants Major. This also marks our change of mission from reconstitution to prepare to deploy. As I congratulated each new Commander and Command Sergeant Major, I told them that we could be certain of only two things:

1. We will be tested by both uncertainty and change.
2. Our nation needs us now more than ever before.

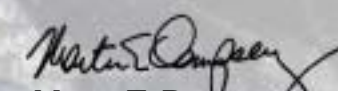
I am satisfied that we have a good plan and good leaders in place to meet the challenges ahead. More important, I am confident that the courage and resolve of Iron Soldiers and their families will see the Division through whatever comes its way.

Some of you have heard me refer to the extraordinary soldiers who wear the Old Ironsides patch and those who support them as “family.” That’s not cliché. You are skillful and hard-working with each other. You want what’s best for each other. You are considerate and generous to each other. That’s a pretty good definition of a family, and as long as you continue to challenge and take care of each other as family in the days ahead, no force on earth can stop you.

In these uncertain times, you can be certain of one thing—Deanie and I will miss you all very much.

God bless you as you continue mission.

Iron Soldiers!


Martin E. Dempsey
MG, USA
Iron 6

Iron Soldiers deploy to Bulgaria Immediate Response

A U.S. M-1A1 Abrams battle rolls off an Air Force C-17 cargo plane on Bezmer Air Base in Bulgaria. The tank is one of several taking part in exercise Immediate Response 2005. Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division and Bulgarian Army units will conduct a peacetime military engagement exercise in Bulgaria in support of U. S. Army Europe's Theater Engagement Program to increase NATO interoperability. Soldiers will conduct combined arms live-fire training exercises and at the same time, build relationships with the Bulgarian military and civilians to enhance NATO interoperability. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Maggio.

Responding Immediately

Story and photos by Pfc. Tanya C. Polk

127th Aviation Support Battalion keeps medics ready to save lives

NOVO SELO, Bulgaria — Soldiers of the 127th Aviation Support Battalion have been feeding the medical birds and making sure the medics and aircraft of the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) are ready for any emergency.

The 127th Aviation Support Battalion's mission is to provide aviation support for aircraft and crews taking part in exercise Immediate Response 2005 taking place in Bulgaria from July 5 through 23.

On July 9, Soldiers of the



Soldiers from the 45th Medical Company prepare to receive fuel from the 127th Aviation Support Battalion at the Vezmeer Air Base in Bulgaria. The fuel will be used on four UH 60 Blackhawks during Exercise Immediate Response 2005 at the Novo Selo Training Area in Novo Selo, Bulgaria.

"Workhorse" Battalion transported fuel to the 45th's four hungry UH 60 Blackhawks standing by at Vezmeer Air Base, about an hour's drive from the

Novo Selo Training Area, where the exercise is taking place.

"We supply our birds with fuel," said Sgt. LaToya Rhoden, a petroleum supply specialist with the 45th based in Katterbach, Germany. "The 127th helps provide us with the fuel we need," she said.

In addition to providing fuel, 127th ASB tests fuel for purity. They provide Meals Ready to Eat, water, and mechanical assistance to other Soldiers in need during the exercise. The 127th is also supporting 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment throughout the exercise.

Bulgarian civilians are also assisting the 45th. The local residents, contractors and businesspersons have helped to set up tents, serve chow and even help dispose of contaminated

fuel for the Soldiers.

"They enjoy helping us out. They want to be here to help us, and they try to help us out the best they can," said Rhoden.

In addition to training U.S. and Bulgarian Soldiers for their combat missions, Exercise Immediate Response 2005 is helping to build relationships between the U.S. Soldiers and their Bulgarian hosts.

"They're very eager to help out and do things we do," said Spc. Kevin Weldon, a petroleum supply specialist with the 127th. "Their work ethics are very good. It makes soldiering a lot easier," he said.

For some of the Hanau-based "Workhorse" Battalion Soldiers, this is a first-time experience training along side another country's army.

"It's important to work with different host people and different nations," said Sgt. Michael Oliver, the field warehouse noncommissioned officer in charge with Headquarters and Service Company, 127th ASB. "It helps new Soldiers to understand how it is in a field environment and how important it is to work together and do what's needed to get the job done," he said.

Editor's Note: More stories about Iron Soldiers in Bulgaria will appear in the next issue of Ironside.



1st Lt. Jesse C. Johnson with the 127th ASB tests the purity of fuel prior to supplying the 45th Medical Company's aircraft at the Novo Selo Training Area in Novo Selo Bulgaria.





1/1 CAV deploys to Korea for Foal Eagle '05

Story and photos by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

"Seven-forty-seven rollin' down the strip, 87 troopers gonna take a little trip."

This isn't from your favorite running cadence; this was the site of 1st Armored Division's 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, deploying to Korea in support of Operation Foal Eagle.

The annual Korea-based exercise brings all branches of service together from around the world to demonstrate intra-theatre lift capabilities – that is, the movement of military equipment throughout the area.

"(The exercise) is designed to show that we can be put in to theatre, draw pre-positioned war equipment, move it and put it in to action," said Capt. Chase Metcalf, Task Force Comanche commander. The 84 1/1CAV Soldiers who participated in the exercise were comprised of one tank, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle platoon and elements from squadron headquarters.

One of the most pertinent movements to Foal Eagle was aboard the U.S. Army Vessel Spearhead.

The task force boarded the liner for a 22-hour ride from the southern tip of the Korean peninsula to a port near nation's capital of Seoul.

The Spearhead, or transportation support vessel-one experimental (TSV-1X), is the fastest boat in the Army's inventory. It can carrier 292 passengers and 72 tons of cargo.

"The vessel's main mission is to move cargo and troops together so they can roll off the vessel and straight in to

combat," said Sgt. Joseph Lazowski, non-commissioned officer in charge of deck-side maintenance aboard the Spearhead.

The TSV-1X has been in the Army's inventory since November 2002. It was designed by the Australian ship-builder, Incat Tasmania Pty Ltd. The Spearhead is one of three boats of its type in the Army, according to Lazowski.

With the Army watercraft field downsizing and restructuring, "this is

what the ... field is going to," said Lazowski, referring to the boat's nature – high speed, highly mobile and able to move a substantial number of troops and equipment.

With a balance between combat power and comfort, the Spearhead left the Blackhawks with a ride to remember.

"It's like a luxury cruise liner," said Sgt. Joseph Ryker, a Bradley Fight-

ing Vehicle gunner with C Troop. "It's better than riding first class on an airplane."

But Ryker didn't dismiss the fact that it's an effective way to deploy in to battle.

"If they want us to move and move fast, this boat will definitely do that," he added.

Although a large portion of the exercise was focused of movement ca-

pabilities, the Soldiers spent approximately a week conducting gunnery – tank and Bradley qualifications – at U.S. Forces Korea's Rodriguez Range.

The Blackhawks spent February conducting gunnery in Grafenwoehr, Germany, but shooting in an unknown environment provides for a more realistic scenario.

"This gunnery really tested our abilities," said Staff Sgt. Aaron

Johnston, tank commander and platoon sergeant for C Troop's 4th Platoon. "This isn't are equipment, so we didn't know what was wrong with it when we got it; but in three or four days we got it up and ready to qualify."

Although shooting gunnery in Korea was already out of the ordinary for 1/1CAV, they found a way to make it even more unique – Table XIII.

... continued next page ...



Above: Blackhawk Soldiers conduct maintenance preceding tank gunnery in South Korea.

Left: A ball of flame bursts from the 120 mm cannon of a 1/1 CAV M1A1, sending a round speedg down South Korea's Rodriguez Range. The range was part the training that occurred during Foal Eagle '05 in March.



A standard gunnery ends at Table XII - which, while it is a collective table, tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles still operated independently.

Table XIII, also known as a Cavalry Live Fire Exercise, or CALFEX, brought two Bradleys and two tanks to work dependant of each other to accomplish the mission.

"We're a cavalry organization, so it's critical that we are able to operate tanks and scouts together ... that's how we fight on the battlefield," said Metcalf. "Instead of fighting as a tank platoon and a scout platoon independent of each other, I like to get them to fight together and improve on that teamwork and communication across platoons, which is critical."

Despite any obstacles the task force faced on the range, the tank and Bradley platoons averaged a distinguished score. For tankers, that is 900

or more points out of a possible 1,000. For Bradley crews, it means eight out of 10 "Ts", or trained.

"It is a testament to the crews' ability to train up for the unknown," said

Lt. Col. John Peeler, 1/1CAV commander. "Now they have the confidence that they can take equipment that's not theirs and very quickly make it their own ... and then go to a training facility that they've never qualified on before and, using Army doctrine and standards, do just as well as they've done in previous environments in Germany."

In the end, the Blackhawks'

The DMZ was established at the end of the Korean War. It has divided one culture for more than 50 years.

A train line that will run from Seoul, through North Korea, to Siberia is currently under construction, according to Cpl. Sung-mo-kang, a Republic of Korea Soldier that has been assigned to the DMZ for nearly a year and a half.

The train will be one of the greatest movements toward joining the cultures, he said; however, while South Korea is finished with its portion of the track, North Korea has halted construction that was scheduled to be completed in 2002.

With stories of violent attacks from the North Korean People's Army (KPA) as recent as the mid 1970s, it can be hard to imagine unity between the nations; but Sung-mo-kang insisted the borderline hostility "isn't as bad as the outside world thinks."

Still, with North Koreans expressing obscenities and non-verbal threats toward anyone who dares to tour the DMZ to this day, it is no wonder the "outside world" sees the situation as a stalemate.

"It amazes me that after 50



A Blackhawk Squadron trooper fills the air with clinks and clanks, hammering and adjusting the track on his 72-ton steed. The constant maintenance of an M1A1 Abrams' track enables and ensures the mobility of the tank and its crew on the battlefield.

years it seems like we haven't gotten anywhere," said Spc. Robert Holmes, Comanche Troop, 1/1CAV. "There's still a threat and it's an unfortunate one."

Despite the danger that lies an eyesight's distance away, a tour to the DMZ is a trip many wouldn't pass up.

"I'm completely grateful for the historic chance to go to the DMZ

and be able to witness it first hand, instead of just reading about it in a book or watching it on TV," said Holmes.

A remarkable feature of the zone is that it has been virtually untouched by humans since its establishment. Over the years, the cut of land has developed in to a lush breeding ground for plants and animals. Some see this miracle as another sign calling for peace, but while both sides of the fence

conduct research on the DMZ's habitual life, there is no plan for the North and South to merge their studies.

"You'd figure after 50 years they'd come up with a way to make amends," Holmes concluded. "Hopefully some day, some way ... there will be peace and consolidation after all of these years."

"Instead of fighting as a tank platoon and a scout platoon independent of each other, I like to get them to fight together and improve on that teamwork and communication across platoons, which is critical."

Capt. Chase Metcalf

1/1 CAV

Task Force Commanche Commander

hard work paid off with a tour of the Demilitarized Zone, a four-kilometer-wide strip of land at approximately the 38th Parallel that runs from coast to coast on the Korean peninsula.

Iron Soldiers

Photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

compete for 1AD Soldier/NCO of 2005

Story by Master Sgt. David Melancon and Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow



Iron Soldiers from throughout the 1st Armored Division footprint competed for top honors during the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition in Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 6 – 9.

Spc. Ralph Van Houtem, assigned to Co. A, 16th Engineer Battalion took the division's top spot for Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Ryland Shaffery, assigned to Co. A, 141st Signal Battalion grabbed the honor of top NCO of the Year.

Selected as their brigades' and separate battalions' cream of the crop, six Soldiers and eight NCOs faced challenges of written examinations, four-mile foot marches, marksmanship and a daylong simulated battlefield where their mastery of common tasks were challenged.

They earned points for each event and the Soldier or NCO with the most points captured the title of Division Soldier or NCO of the year.

For the contest's only female competitor, Spc. Angela Cummings, assigned to 501st

Military Intelligence Battalion, working to get to this level was very satisfying.

"I think have done well here," said Cummings. "The competition helped me define my strengths and weaknesses." At 32 years old the Russian linguist and lone female Soldier to compete at division level, she believes that other female Soldiers should not shy away from the opportunity to excel as an Iron Soldier.

"It is not outside the scope for females to be competitive and win this," explained Cummings. The variety of events, ability to practically apply skills and being aware of one's strengths and weaknesses allows Sol-

diers to be rated on overall skill and not just on the ability to answer questions in front of a panel as in the old-style boards. And the Iron Soldier of 2005, Van Houtem, agrees.

"Don't just study from the book," recommended Van Houtem, "know your hands-on training."

Like the competitors, Soldiers and NCOs grading and supporting the event represented every unit in the 1AD and a cross section of military occupational specialties (MOS) – intelligence, logistics, combat arms, aviations and communications.

"This competition is for Soldiers and NCOs and it is put together and run by Soldiers and NCOs," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Blackwood, 1st Armored Division command sergeant major.

"There are no MOSs here," said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Klingel, competition NCOIC. "Everyone here is an Iron Warrior."

After arriving from their home stations, or in some cases, the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels or via Moscow from Exercise Torgau 2005, the competitors, shadowed by a sponsor from their unit, completed administrative tasks and inventories of their equipment.

The first competitive event consisted of two written exams: land navigation and individual Soldier tasks taken from the Soldiers Manual of Common Tasks.

"Overall they did very good," said Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Midgett, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation. "Especially the junior Soldiers with those (questions) that deal with today's modern battlefield. If you were down range, you knew how to deal with

... continued next page ...



Sgt. Ryland Shaffery, assigned to 141st Signal Battalion, strides through a cloud of smoke, dodging simulated indirect fire in Grafenwoehr Training Area.



those questions.”

The first day's competition kicked off with an Army Physical Readiness Test.

However, it was not individual Iron Soldiers taking the PT Test, it was an Iron Warrior Team, Klingel said.

And that team included everyone, contestant, sponsor and grader, he said.

“On both sides of the PT track – graders on one side, sponsors on the other they screamed and yelled for every competitor and not for the individual number (contestant),” Klingel said.

After a quick breakfast, it was off to the rifle range to zero and qualify on the competitors' individual weapons.

“The highlight for me,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jenkins, division Bradley Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner and Range NCO in charge, “was the way the NCOs put it together and went straight through it.”

All of the competitors successfully

“Don't just study from the book, know your hands-on training.”

**Spc. Ralph Van Houtem
1st Armored Division
Soldier of the Year
2005**



Sgt. Vitalijs Sorokins, assigned to Friedberg's 1-36th Infantry, takes directions from Wiesbaden's Sgt. 1st Class Darin Goode, assigned to HHC, 1st AD, at the Adjust Indirect Fire Station during the practical application portion of the competition.

zeroed and qualified, Jenkins said.

“The best deal was watching Soldiers and NCOs zero their weapons by themselves and coming in and executing the range,” he said.

The first day's events included a day and night land navigation course. Competitors had to find five points during the day's event and three points during the nighttime course.

“This is the best way to select a Soldier or NCO of the year,” said Sgt. Wayne Doombos, HHC, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation. “Anybody can read a book and stand before a board. Here you have to do something to be Soldier or NCO of

the year.” And this was the key to success for Iron NCO of 2005, Shaffery.

“Hands-on training is the key. You can read about it all day, but it's different to come out here and do it,” said Shaffery.

Van Houtem and Shaffery will represent the division in the V Corps Soldier and NCO of the year competition later in June.

Editor's Note: Spc. Ralph Van Houtem went on to win V Corps Soldier of the Year and will compete during the upcoming USAREUR board.

1st Armored Division

CAREER COUNSELOR'S

Corner

Welcome to the Career Counselor's Corner. This portion of the magazine is dedicated to letting the Soldiers and their Families what's going on in the ever changing world of Reenlistment.

Let me first introduce myself; I am Sgt. Maj. Gary Schoolfield, the Command Career Counselor for the 1st Armored Division. It is my extreme pleasure to serve this command and all of its Soldiers through reenlistment. Reenlisting in today's Army is one of the most important choices any Soldier and Family can make and we know it can be confusing or sometimes a little scary. Well that's the reason all throughout the command we have Career Counselors waiting to assist you in this matter. Here is the 1st Armored Division's Retention Team Senior Counselor's for each Brigade:

Hqs 1 st Armored Division	SGM Schoolfield	Phone: DSN 337-4268
Retention Operations	SFC Lopez/SFC Grimes	337-4267
Hqs and Separate Battalions	SFC Carmichael	337-4270
1 st Bde	SFC Gray	324-3834
2 nd Bde	SFC Verschage	485-7441
4 th Bde	SFC Sims	322-7715
DIVARTY	SFC Nolen	485-7544
DISCOM	MSG Frederickson	337-4663
DIVENG	SFC Gibson	343-9440
DIVTROOPS	SFC Carmichael	337-4270

It is our duty to serve you as your Career Counselors and we take great pride in those duties. Please contact your local career counselor at anytime concerning your career. We are in the Soldier business and just because you are not in the normal reenlistment window (24 to 3 months from ETS) does not mean we do not want to hear from you. Many soldiers find that if you start preparing for a promising career early it is much easier to reach those goals set by all good soldiers.

In future editions of this article you will find the latest changes to the Army Retention Program, new reenlistment bonus information, how to become a recruiter, how to become more competitive for promotions, and a host of other topics that will assist you in continuing with the best team in the world, the United States Army.



1st Armored Division
Brigade
Summer 2005
Changes of Command

Incoming Commanders

1st Brigade
Col. Michael Bills

2nd Brigade
Col. Robert E. Scurlock

4th Brigade
Col. Bob Johnson

DISCOM
Col. Guy Beougher

DIVENG
Col. James D. Shumway IV

DIVARTY
Col. Darryl A. Williams



Col. Robert E. Scurlock

assumes command of 2nd Brigade in
Baumholder, Germany, 6 June 2005.



Torgau '05

Story by Master Sgt. David Melancon

strengthens 60-year-old bonds between U.S. and Russian Soldiers

Photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow and Master Sgt. David Melancon

During the afternoon of April 25, 1945, Soldiers of V Corps' 273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division, shook hands with patrols from the Russian (Soviet) Army's 58th Guards Division on the banks of the Elbe River in Torgau, Germany. It was a historic moment. The meeting of the Americans advancing from the west with the Russians coming from the east marked the defeat of Germany's Third Reich.

During the afternoon of June 3, 2005, U.S. and Russian Soldiers again exchanged handshakes of friendship on German soil here, about 200 miles south of their first meeting, during Exercise Torgau 2005.

This reunion of U.S. and Russian Soldiers began May 22 when about 160 Soldiers and officers of the corps' 1st Armored Division boarded aircraft bound for Moscow to train at the Combined Arms Academy, Russian Federation Armed Forces.

While U.S. military personnel have traveled to Russia before for other training missions, division officials say

... continued next page ...

Russian cadets and 1AD Soldiers move tactically to a small-arms range in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Upon setting up their firing positions, the cadets and Iron Soldiers loosed a hail of lead from M4 Carbines and M249 Squad Assault Weapons, leaving shredded targets in their wake.

Withrow

Torgau '05 marked the first time members of each army studied the other's doctrine, training methods and warrior skills while enlisted Soldiers trained in the field with their Russian counterparts.

Before introducing themselves to one another, Soldiers from both nations honored their shared military ancestry by laying a pine bough at the base of T-34 tank which serves as a monument honoring the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The exercise's opening ceremony marked a starting point of a different kind as well, as U.S. and Soldiers came together and began forming partnerships and friendships that would last for the next 12 days of training — and in many cases, beyond.

Following the remembrance and introductions, brigade and battalion-level battle staff members remained at the academy for the day to discuss each army's doctrine, unit structures, missions and planning methods. Soldiers of the "joint company team" formed for the exercise traveled to the Russian Army's Vystrel Training Center in Solnechhogorsk, about 60 miles north of Moscow, to learn about Russian military equipment and small unit tactics.

The first three days at the training site were spent in the classroom and on weapons simulators, learning the basics of Russian weapons. At the same time, combat engineers studied Russian mine emplacement techniques. Those sessions were followed by a day of hands-on experience at the training center's firing range complex.

Sgt. Lee Gregorie, A Co. 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, spent three days with a Russian SVD Dragunov Sniper ... *continued next page* ...

Bursting through doorways, Russian cadets clear a house during military operations in terrain training in Grafenwoehr Training Area's MOUT site.

Sgt. Leslie Guy instructs Russian cadets from the Russian Combined Arms Academy in directing artillery fire from inside an M577 tracked command post. Guy is assigned to 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, based in Baumholder, Germany.

After dismounting a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Iron Soldiers of 1-6 IN and Russian cadets move through a tactical-assault course, engaging targets with a variety of small-arms fire and grenades.

Sgt. Robert Castillo answers questions from Russian cadets during MOUT training.





Rifle, learning to take apart, reassemble and maintain it.

Then came the best part — a morning spent zeroing the weapon, followed by an afternoon of knocking out targets as much to 700 meters away under the mentorship of one of a premiere marksmen.

“We’re training with one of the best snipers in the Russian army,” Gregorie said. “This is a great chance to train with (Soldiers) of other countries.”

Meanwhile, tankers from the division’s 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, took command of Russian T-72 main battle tanks and put rounds down range, as U.S. and Russian infantrymen practiced two-man assaults with the Kalashnikov RPK light machine gun and AK-47 assault rifles and combat engineers put their mine-laying and obstacle breaching skills to work.

Out on the ranges, shooting and moving, communicating was no obstacle for Americans or Russians. All spoke “Soldier.”

“You can go a long way with sign language,” said Spc. Douglas Henderson, a scout with the division’s 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, after taking down a few targets with his Russian counterpart, Cadet Alexander Voldolazov. “But a scout is always a scout.”

“Me and my friend, we shoot good,” Voldolazov said pointing to their RPK and PKM machine guns and to the fallen pop-up targets down range.

The 1st Armored Division Soldiers seemed to be impressed with the Russian weapons and training facilities.

The RPK and PKM have features to impress any infantryman, said Spc. Ryan Kahlor of A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry.

“They are really easy to clean,

and they have a lot less parts,” he said. “And they are easy to fire in any conditions.”

“It is really cool to peek into their culture and see how they use their arsenal,” added Pfc. Phillip Komosa, also from Company A, 1-6th.

After the last round was fired, the combined group found time to kick back while waiting for buses to pick them up from the ranges. The group

buzzed with “Soldier-speak” as the troops exchanged insignia, mailing addresses, and autographed dollar and ruble bills. And of course, shared every Soldier’s most basic right – to gripe. The heat and ever-present persistent mosquitoes were the top complaints.

Back at the Russian garrison, hot chow was followed by a briefing on company-level tactics, pick-up soccer and volleyball games, and just hanging

out in front of the barracks sharing cigarettes and small talk until final formation and lights out.

The next day was filled with mission rehearsals for a combined arms live-fire exercise to come. Using the tanks, personnel carriers, combat engineer tools and small arms they trained with during the week, the U.S. Soldiers and their Russian officer cadet counterparts

... continued next page ...

Side by side, a 1st Armored Division Soldier and a Russian cadet from the Russian Combined Arms Academy fire an M-249 Squad Assault Weapon.





Prone in the grass of Grafenwoehr, Russian and American Soldiers work together to clear a jammed M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon during assault-lane training.

bined Arms Academy, Russian Federation Armed Forces.

While U.S. military personnel have traveled to Russia before for other training missions, division officials say Torgau '05 marked the first time members of each army studied the other's doctrine, training methods and warrior skills while enlisted Soldiers trained in the field with their Russian counterparts.

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This reunion of U.S. and Russian Soldiers began May 22 when about 160 Soldiers and officers of the corps' 1st Armored Division boarded aircraft bound of Moscow to train at the Com-



Fanning out to clear and secure a room during MOUT training, Russian cadets learn about U.S. Army means and methods in an exchange of ideas during Torgau '05.



Russian cadets instruct 1st Armored Division tankers from Friedberg's 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, on operating the Russian T-72 tank at the Vystrel Training Center in the Russian Federation before letting the Americans take the tank for a test drive.



center's firing range complex.

Sgt. Lee Gregorie, A Co. 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, spent three days with a Russian SVD Dragunov Sniper Rifle, learning to take apart, reassemble and maintain it.

Then came the best part — a morning spent zeroing the weapon, followed by an afternoon of knocking out targets as much to 700 meters away under the mentorship of one of a premiere marksmen.

"We're training with one of the best snipers in the Russian army," Gregorie said. "This is a great chance to train with (Soldiers) of other countries."

Meanwhile, tankers from the division's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, took command of Russian T-72 main battle tanks and put rounds down range, as U.S. and Russian infantrymen practiced two-man assaults with the

Kalashnikov RPK light machine gun and AK-47 assault rifles and combat engineers put their mine-laying and obstacle breaching skills to work.

Out on the ranges, shooting and moving, communicating was no obstacle for Americans or Russians. All spoke "Soldier."

"You can go a long way with sign language," said Spc. Douglas Henderson, a scout with the division's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, after taking down a few targets with his Russian counterpart, Cadet Alexander Voldolazov. "But a scout is always a scout."

"Me and my friend, we shoot good," Voldolazov said pointing to their RPK and PKM machine guns and to the fallen pop-up targets down range.

The 1st Armored Division Soldiers seemed to be impressed with the Russian weapons and training facilities.

The RPK and PKM have features to impress any infantryman, said Spc. Ryan Kahlor of A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry.

"They are really easy to clean, and they have a lot less parts," he said. "And they are easy to fire in any conditions."

"It is really cool to peek into their culture and see how they use their arsenal," added Pfc. Phillip Komosa, also from Company A, 1-6th.

After the last round was fired, the combined group found time to kick back while waiting for buses to pick them up from the ranges. The group buzzed with "Soldier-speak" as the troops exchanged insignia, mailing addresses, and autographed dollar and ruble bills. And of course, shared every Soldier's most basic right — to gripe. The heat and ever-present persistent . . . *continued next page* . . .



A Russian Soldier instructs a member of 1st Armored Division about firing the Russian RPK light machinegun.



mosquitoes were the top complaints.

Back at the Russian garrison, hot chow was followed by a briefing on company-level tactics, pick-up soccer and volleyball games, and just hanging out in front of the barracks sharing cigarettes and small talk until final formation and lights out.

The next day was filled with mission rehearsals for a combined arms live-fire exercise to come. Using the tanks, personnel carriers, combat engineer tools and small arms they trained with during the week, the U.S. Soldiers and their Russian officer cadet counterparts took on an opposing force in a morning-long battle.

More

Artillery pounded a mock enemy as tanks and armored vehicles assaulted the opponents' left flank and engineers and dismounted infantrymen took the center. The "enemy" didn't stand a chance, participants from both armies said.

"It went well, especially for the interaction between our Soldiers and (Russian company team commander 1st Lt. Nicoli Chuvai's) Soldiers during the offense and counterattack," said Capt. Christopher Kuzio, commander of the U.S. company team. "Our two (armies) and our officers are very similar. Although we speak two different languages, our armies are very, very similar."

"Thanks to our unified efforts between the Russian and American forces, the training was excellent," said Chuvai through a translator. "We can perform together on the battlefield."

While the Soldiers and cadets studied weapons and tactics, the brigade and division staff officers gathered at the academy in Moscow to learn the finer points of each army's doctrine and

... continued next page ...



A Russian cadet runs, ducking simulated enemy fire as his infantry dismount team mounts an assault through the smoke-filled forests of Grafenwoehr Training Area during exercise Torgau '05.



combat formations and crafted operations orders for the next phase of the exercise, at Grafenwöhr.

"We'll see the end state of the military decision-making process through a computer-assisted simulation," explained Capt. Cleveland Johnson, 1st Armored Division radio officer. "The (operations orders) that we produced as a combined staff will be executed at Grafenwöhr."

The order was the first produced by a combined team of U.S. and Russian staff officers, claimed Johnson.

Following the training, the U.S. Soldiers had an opportunity to get to know their Russian hosts and to see some of their country.

"We got a lot of chances to hang out with the Russian Soldiers," said Spc. Douglas Henderson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry. "We also had time to spend about an hour and half in Moscow. It was a lot of fun. I expected it to be a lot more run down than it was, but it was pretty nice."

The Russian part of the mission complete, the teams moved on to the second phase of the exercise in Germany. The teams that were formed in Russia re-formed here to learn about U.S. tactics and equipment.

"I'm showing them my Bradley because they showed me their BMP," said Sgt. Justen Robinett of A Company, 1-6th, of the armies' respective infantry fighting vehicles. "I'll be proud to show him what it can do."

"We'll be paying back the favors and hospitality they (Russian Soldiers) gave us," added infantryman Pfc. Arnulfo Gomez, also of A Company, 1-6th. "We can show them that by working together we can accomplish a lot. I want them to know that they have

friends in another part of the world and that they can depend on us."

Here, U.S. and Russian leaders continued their work on the operations orders as their Soldiers took to the weapons ranges.

"I think it's been a positive experience and a good chance to work with them, and (for) them to work with us," said Staff Sgt. Craig Meads of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor. "It helps build a good relationship between the two countries, and builds respect. Going into this I was very positive and really looking forward to it. Not too often do you get an opportunity to do something like this. ...it was very positive for our two countries."

"This training is very important, so that we will know how to work together with our American friends in a real battle," said Russian Artillery Academy cadet Sergei Chimilkin during live-fire training with his counterparts from the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery June 2. "These exercises will help us with our partnerships in the future."

"The American sergeants and Soldiers working with us have very high skills and standards. Also, training with the Paladin was very good."

Cadet Semyon Kuzmin, studying to be a marine platoon leader, spent some of his time with 1st Armored Division Soldiers training inside a simulated Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicle in the USAREUR Virtual Training Center.

"For me it is very interesting, because I have been interested in foreign equipment. Here I have a chance to learn about it first-hand," said Kuzmin. "I found some real friends among the American Soldiers."

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, the 1st Armored Division assistant com-

manding general for maneuver served as the exercise director for Torgau '05. He said the lessons learned during the exercise succeeded in the field, proving the Americans and Russians could share and understand each other's doctrine and tactics. Maybe more importantly, the exercise cleared a path that will allow the two armies to cooperate in the future.

"We've been able to knock down a lot of old barriers that have existed for many years. This enhances our trust and increases the respect we have for each other," Tucker said. "It has been an enlightenment for us all. The Russians and the U.S. (Soldiers) are equally delighted to have had this opportunity. We've reflected on the old times and are so very glad nothing ever really happened."

"The training aspect is what allows us to draw closer," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Hurst, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor. "I think it's a good opportunity for the young Soldiers we have to deal with Soldiers from other countries. They come out here and see another country, another culture. It's a chance to find some common ground."

"The most important thing here is Soldiers working with Soldiers," said Kuzio. "The amazing thing to see is how similar all our guys are. They all get excited about the same things and complain about the same things."

Editor's Note: Karl Weisel, Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow and Bill Roche contributed to this article.

"It is really cool to peek into their culture and see how they use their arsenal."

**Pfc. Phillip Komosa
Company A, 1-6 Infantry**



Withrow



TRAINING AROUND THE SIM MAN TO THE RESCUE!

MEDICS, FIRST RESPONDERS RECEIVE NEW TRAINING TOOL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LEANNE MACALLISTER

Baumholder's medical professionals provided emergency care for a variety of injuries March 24th at building 8354. Luckily, no one was hurt.

The 7th Army Training Center introduced their newest training instrument to medical platoons and health clinic personnel. The Sim Man, or simulated human, is a tool used for medical personnel to test their ability to diagnose and treat injuries in an emergency setting such as an ambulance transfer point.

Baumholder received three new Sim Man systems. A system is comprised of a simulated full-size human body, connected computer and tools including a heart

ing.

"It's a great tool and we are glad Baumholder can finally offer it to Soldiers for training," said Dale Franz, Local Training Area Supervisor. "The Sim Man costs about \$50,000 so we are very lucky to get three. Many hospitals and universities use it and the Army realizes its value."

"This system was sent to us from the 7th ATC. It is very valuable because it gives Soldiers the opportunity to train on tasks they would encounter in actual battle – it's as close as they get to the real thing," said Training Support Center Supervisor Jose LaRoy.

Medical combat units and health clinic professionals were on hand for the ground breaking of the new center and had the opportunity to take a first hand look at the training aid's capabilities.

"I've heard and read about the Sim Man and it's going to be awesome. The actual hands-on here is more realistic than practicing on real people. The Sim Man gives us realistic sounds such as gurgling in the chest and pain reactions that are needed to assess patients," said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Moise, of 1st Battalion 35th Armored Regiment Headquarters of Headquarters Company medic platoon.

1st Lt. Brandon McCarter, 1-35 medic platoon leader, experi-



An Iron Soldier listens for Sim Man's heart beat.

enced this type of training in his officer basic course and is looking forward to educating his platoon with the Sim Man.

"From a leadership perspective, this tool is much more realistic than those the Soldiers are accustomed to. The element of reality adds to the value and provides necessary experience in preparation for deployment," said McCarter.

With mission preparedness stressed as a US Army Europe priority, Baumholder and the 7th ATC continues to take necessary steps to get Soldiers ready for all challenges that lay ahead.



Soldiers perform CPR on Sim Man in Baumholder, Germany.

monitor, breathing pattern replications, and applicable noise cues such as "hey, that hurts." A computer evaluates the medical professional on their ability to perform multiple medical tasks including tracheotomies and stabilization of excessive bleed-

1ST ARMORED DIVISION

141ST SIG IS READY TO ROLL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. ABIODUN LADEPO

Soldiers of the 141st Signal Battalion, Wiesbaden, are trained and prepared to deploy down range again.

Lt. Col. Mark C. Horoho said that the successful CMTC rotation with 1AD's 1st Brigade Combat Team validated all the hard work his soldiers had put into training during the preceding months.

"I believe we provided the 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT) with an outstanding quality of support, the best possible communications support they could get," Horoho said.

To reap the maximum benefit from the training exercise, 141st Signal Battalion invited soldiers from the Kitzingen based 121st Signal Battalion, to evaluate

months in Iraq, returning in July 2004.

"With 121st just returning from down range, we get a more current feel of what the battlefield looks like. If we combine their experience with ours, we can only get better in our preparations," said Horoho.

The 141st Signal battalion is scheduled to commence their second tour of duty in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Horoho said he was particularly gratified that his soldiers remained focused throughout the training exercise, remaining proactive and avoiding accidents.

Pvt. Jimmy Davenport, a Small Extension Node (SEN) operator with Company A, 141st Signal Battalion, agrees with his commander, saying that he learned a lot in the two CMTC rotations in which he participated.

"I feel comfortable in my job now, more than I used to feel before coming to Hohenfels," he said.

Davenport attributed his new found confidence to the realistic training he received during the exercises.

"I feel like I am ready to deploy now. This is what I signed up for and I feel like it is time to demonstrate what I have learned," Davenport said.

During the exercise, 141st Signal Battalion deployed most of its equipment, to include Node Centers (NCs), (SENs), Large Extension Nodes



Signal Soldiers check connections on their equipment.

(LENs) Remote Access Units (RAUs), and other associated equipment, providing secure voice and data communications to the 1BCT and other supporting units.

Due to the up-coming deployment, training tempo has picked up dramatically for the 141st Signal Battalion soldiers. They just concluded 1BCT's CMTC exercise which was the third such exercise in which elements of the battalion participated this year.

Iron Signal Soldiers were in Hohenfels in February and March, supporting the 2BCT and DIVARTY during their CMTC rotations. Both the 2BCT and 1BCT are scheduled to return to Hohenfels for more training in August and September respectively.

The 141st Signal Battalion will again be there to provide communications support while honing their individual field craft and improving their collective war-fighting skills.



Signal Soldiers set up an antenna.

their training. The 121st Signal Battalion just returned from Iraq in May 2005. The 141st Signal Battalion themselves spent 15



Above and Beyond

125th FSB Isn't Your Average Support Battalion

Story and photos Spc. Matthew Wester



An M-88 recovery vehicle crew, from 125th FSB, recovers an Iraqi Army vehicle damaged by a car bomb northwest of Baghdad on June 14. No Iraqi Army Soldiers were killed in the bombing.

TAJI, Iraq – For every combat arms Soldier on the ground, there are many Soldiers behind the scenes, making sure these troops are well supplied, healthy and their war-fighting equipment is working.

The 125th Forward Support Battalion provides that support for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and they also have taken on additional responsibilities to ensure the brigade can meet its goals during this deployment.

“Our mission is to support the brigade. It’s something I try to impart to everyone that comes into the battalion,” said Lt. Col. Jack Hinkley, commander of 125th FSB from Turner, Maine. “Support covers a wide range of subjects. We have our normal maintenance, supply, medical functions, but this rotation we’re picking up a lot of transportation, and we’re picking up (responsibility for) the (Brigade Detention Facility).”

“Just about anything the brigade needs that is support related, they call us,” he said.

One of the main needs of any combat brigade is to have operational equipment ready for missions.

The battalion’s B Company makes sure that happens.

“We conduct direct support maintenance for the entire brigade,” said Capt. Craig B. Boston, B Company commander.



Pvt. Josh B. Dennis, a Cabbot, Ark., native and wheeled vehicle mechanic for Company B, 125th FSB, repairs an electric light set at the B Company maintenance facility.

Boston, from Saco, Maine, said his company replaces major parts on vehicles, maintains and fixes weapons systems, repairs communications equipment, and recovers damaged vehicles outside the post.

“We have a bay shop which consists of six teams, and we have five teams with the supported units,” he said. “We have our normal mission, which is maintenance, but we also have our missions which are not doctrinal.”

The company provides Soldiers to staff the Brigade Detention Facility and the battalion’s Personal Security Detail.

Also, female troops from B Company are sometimes called upon to search females on patrols.

Boston sees the importance of his company to the battalion and to 3rd Brigade’s wider mission here.

“Maintenance is very important. This is a very harsh environment on the vehicles and equipment,” he said. “Being a mechanic is not a glamorous role, but the fact is, people couldn’t operate without us.”

Mechanics can’t repair equipment without the proper parts.

The 125th’s A Company is in charge

of organizing those parts and getting them where they are needed.

“On a daily basis, we are providing different classes of supplies for the 3rd Brigade,” said Capt. James E. Gee, commander of A Company and a native of Winona, Miss.

According to Gee, a large portion of the company’s job is to store, track and deliver Class IX supplies, which are repair parts for combat vehicles.

The company runs warehouses and a supply yard on post, and it also recovers vehicles that have broken down or been damaged on the roads outside Camp Taji.

Keeping vehicles and equipment running is a major part of what the 125th does, but keeping 3rd Brigade Soldiers healthy is also part of its mission.

The battalion’s medical component, C Company, staffs the “Cobra” troop medical clinic on post, embeds medics with the brigade’s combat units, and provides various other medical services.

“We provide combat health support to the brigade. We are ‘level two’, the next level above a battalion aid station,” said Sgt. 1st Class Henry W. Chapman, a Columbus, Ohio native and first sergeant for C Company.

Chapman said the company has been able to take over an existing site and turn it into a well-stocked, efficient treatment facility.

The clinic provides all the services of a battalion aid station plus lab, dental, x-ray and trauma services, said Capt. Peter A. Ramos, commander of C Company from Ft. Riley, Kan.

“The bulk of our mission has been sick call,” he said. “We have had some trauma. Thankfully, it hasn’t been

... **continued next page** ...



much.”

“We treat any traumas that come through the door,” said Dr. (Maj.) Gregory Martin, a San Antonio, Texas resident and clinic physician for C Company. “We try to stabilize the patient and put them on a helicopter for definitive care.”

The company is prepared to deal with medical emergencies outside the clinic as well, rushing to Soldiers who need medical treatment on or off Camp Taji.

“At all times, we maintain two ambulance crews, ready to roll on a moment’s notice,” Ramos said.

The company’s medical providers also care for the detainees at the Brigade Detention Facility.

“We see the detainees daily,” Martin said. “We provide very good care for the detainees.”

The 125th not only provides medicals to treat detainees, but also provides Soldiers to guard them.

This isn’t a typical duty of a support battalion.

It is one of the extra tasks the battalion has taken on to support 3rd Brigade.

“What we’ve done to man the (Brigade Detention Facility) is pull people from throughout the battalion – cooks, mechanics, clerks. We’ve brought them all together, given them military police training and made them our staff out there,” Hinkley said.

“We’ve put them under our Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and it’s been working out really well,” he said.

Sgt. First Class Jonathan Horsager, first sergeant for the battalion’s HHC, said the Soldiers have become a good team and young leaders have emerged in the platoon-sized element that runs the facility, which temporarily houses brigade detainees.

Another additional task performed by the battalion is staffing a personal security detachment.

The PSD accompanies the battalion commander on missions off post and escorts other troops who need extra security on operations outside the wire.



Spc. Daphne M. Bartee, from Porter, Texas and a medic for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 125th FSB, gives medical care to a detainee at the Brigade Detention Facility at Camp Taji. The 125th FSB not only provides medicals to treat detainees, but also provides Soldiers to guard them.



Dr. (Capt.) Robert G. Whicker, brigade dental surgeon for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, performs restorative care on a patient at the “Cobra” troop medical clinic at Camp Taji.

“Any time there is a brigade asset that doesn’t have a security element or doesn’t have enough vehicles to make up a convoy, we will go ahead and augment them, take them where they need to go, and provide security for them,” said 1st Lt. James McWherter, commander of the

battalion’s personal security detail.

McWherter said his detail is made up of Soldiers from diverse military occupational fields, who have received new training and come together to work as an effective team.

The battalion as a whole is just

as diverse.

Strong leadership is required to effectively manage a unit with such a variety of tasks and troops, and that leadership starts at the top with the battalion staff and commander.

“No two platoons in my battalion are alike,” Hinkley said. “There are approximately 70 different military occupational specialties in the battalion.”

Hinkley said it takes close management on behalf of his support operations section to try to pull all the different skill sets together and make a good team.

Experience among the staff has helped maximize the effectiveness of that management.

“I was here in Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, and I learned a lot as the Brigade S4 (logistics officer),” said Maj. Mike O’Neil, support operations officer for the 125th from Fountain, Colo. “I know a lot of people in the brigade, and that has helped me out in understanding its needs.”

Hinkley’s previous experience in armored and mechanized units has also helped him lead efficiently.

“I have been a support operations officer in a heavy unit, so I’m very familiar with what the maneuver task forces want, what they expect from an FSB, and what they need to maintain their combat power,” he said.

Hinkley said he is proud of his battalion’s versatility, adaptability and ability to supply units who are long distances away from Camp Taji, like 3rd Brigade’s 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment.

They are based out of Forward Operating Base St. Michael on the far southern end of the Task Force Baghdad area of operation.

He added that as more responsibilities are given to his battalion, “we’ll pick them up and go with them.”

“We’ll keep making it happen,” he said.



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